Message Text

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42.

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SECRETNICOSIA 0192

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINT CY

SUBJ: MAKARIOS' CABINET SWORN IN

REF: NICOSIA 0149

- 1. NEW CYPRUS CABINET WAS FORMALLY SWORN IN JANUARY 15. CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS PRACTICE, MINISTERS OMITTED PLEDGING "RESPECT FOR THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS MADE THEREUNDER, THE PRESERVATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE AND THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE REPUBLIC." NEW OATH SIMPLY AFFIRMED "RESPECT FOR THE LAWS OF THE REPUBLIC." (COMMENT: NEW OATH WOULD APPEAR GIVE CABINET GREATER DEGREE OF FREEDOM IN WORKING OUT ACCOMMODATION WITH TURK CYPRIOTS. IT WOULD ALSO LEAVE THEM FREE TO OPT FOR ENOSIS FOR GREEK CYPRUS IN EVENT NO SOLUTION FORTHCOMING. END COMMENT.)
- 2. BOTH AKEL AND LYSSARIDESJ EDEK EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT CABINET NOT DRAWN FROM ALL POLITICAL PARTIES. EDEK IMPLICITLY SECRET

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BLAMED GLAFKOS CLERIDES' OPPOSITION TO THIS CONCEPT AND HIS UN-

WILLINGNESS WORK WITH EITHER FORMER FONMIN KYPRIANOU OR EDEK REPRESENTATIVE HADJIDEMETRIOU. QUESTIONED, ARCHBISHOP EXPLAINED THAT AN ALL-PARTY GOVERNMENT, RATHER THAN UNIFYING, WOULD HAVE BEEN A "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL DIVISION."

- 3. FOLLOWING SWEARING IN OF CABINET, MAKARIOS TOLD PRESS THAT "NATIONAL COUNCIL" HAS BEEN SET UP TO ADVISE PRESIDENT ON BROAD POLICY ISSUES. UNIFIED PARTY WILL BE REPRESENTED BY TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS, PROGRESSIVE FRONT BY STAVROS POSKOTIS, AKEL BY PARTY LEADER PAPAIOANNOU, EDEK BY LYSSARIDES, AND DEK BY TAKIS EVDOKAS. PRO-ENOSIS ESEA HAS NOT YET NAMED REPRESENTATIVE. CLERIDES IS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.
- 4. COMMENT: OUTCOME OF CABINET IMPASSE VERY MUCH IN CLERIDES' FAVOR -- THOUGH IN A NEGATIVE SENSE. CLERIDES HAD OPPOSED IN-VOLVING ALL PARTIES IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND HAD SUGGESTED TO ARCHBISHOP THAT POLITICAL GROUPS BE PLACATED THROUGH FORMULATION OF NATIONAL COUNCIL. WE DOUBT COUNCIL WILL PLAY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN POLICY FORMULATION.
- 5. CABINET, ITSELF, IS VERY MUCH OF A RETREAD OF MAKARIOS' FORMER MINISTERIAL COUNCILS. TYPICALLY, NONE OF INDIVIDUALS NAMED HAS ANY PERSONAL POLITICAL FOLLOWING. CABINET IS NEARLY IDENTICAL TO ONE WHICH ASSISTED MAKARIOS IN ARRIVING AT CURRENT POLITICAL PREDICAMENT.
- 6. VENIAMIN'S APPOINTMENT TO INTERIOR POST MAY CAUSE DIFFICULTIES. VENIAMIN PRIDES HIMSELF ON TOUGHNESS WITH WHICH HE TREATED TURKS WHEN HE WAS LIMASSOL DISTRICT OFFICER AND CREDITS THIS POLICY WITH HAVING PREVENTED INTERCOMMUNAL FIGHTING IN THAT AREA. IF HE APPROACHES NEW JOB WITH SAME OUTLOOK, THERE COULD BE TROUBLE.
- 7. TOMBAZOS' APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS SHOULD CAUSE LESS DIFFICULTY, THOUGH HE IS ANATHEMA TO EOKA-B. UK HIGH COMMISSION UNDERSTANDS HE REFUSED RETURN TO HEAD CYPRUS INTELLIGENCE SERVICE OUT OF FEAR FOR HIS LIFE.
- 8. IN SUM, CABINET ONCE AGAIN LIKELY FUNCTION AS RUBBER STAMP FOR ARCHBISHOP. NONE OF INDIVIDUALS NAMED HAVE EVER OPPOSED HIM IN PAST; NONE IS LIKELY TO DO SO NOW. AS IN PREVIOUS MAKARIOS' SECRET

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REGIMES, THIS GOVERNMENT LOOKS TO BE A ONE-MAN SHOW. ONLY CLERIDES HAS MUCH FREEDOM OF ACTION AND THIS WILL DEPEND ON DEGREE OF SUPPORT HE RECEIVES FROM ATHENS. BROWN

SECRET

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